



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 847

LCO No. 3037



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CREATING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS
AND EMPLOYEES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) As used in this section
2 and sections 2 to 17, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise
3 indicates, the following terms have the following meanings:

4 (1) "Blind trust" means a trust established by a municipal official or
5 municipal employee or member of his or her immediate family for the
6 purpose of divestiture of all control and knowledge of assets.

7 (2) "Business with which he or she is associated" means any sole
8 proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation or trust in which the
9 municipal official or municipal employee or member of his or her
10 immediate family is a director, officer, owner, limited or general
11 partner, beneficiary of a trust or holder of stock constituting five per
12 cent or more of the total outstanding stock of any class, except that
13 "business with which he or she is associated" does not include a

14 business for which a municipal official or municipal employee or
15 member of his or her immediate family is associated with solely by
16 virtue of such official, employee or member serving as an unpaid
17 director or officer of a not-for-profit entity. For purposes of this
18 subdivision, "Officer" refers only to the president, executive or senior
19 vice president or treasurer of such business.

20 (3) "Candidate for municipal office" means any individual who has
21 (1) filed a declaration of candidacy or a petition to appear on the ballot
22 for election as a municipal official, (2) raised or expended money in
23 furtherance of such candidacy, or (3) been nominated for appointment
24 to serve as a municipal official.

25 (4) "Board" means the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board established in
26 section 1-80 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

27 (5) "Gift" means anything of value, which is directly and personally
28 received, unless consideration of equal or greater value is given in
29 return. "Gift" does not include:

30 (A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law
31 or a donation or payment as described in subdivision (9) or (10) of
32 subsection (b) of section 9-601a of the general statutes;

33 (B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time, if
34 provided to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party,
35 any candidate or candidates for municipal office or the position of
36 convention delegate or town committee member or any referendum
37 question;

38 (C) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more
39 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

40 (D) A gift received from (i) an individual's spouse, fiance or fiancée,
41 (ii) the parent, brother or sister of such spouse or such individual, or
42 (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such child;

43 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a municipality (I) for
44 use on municipal property, or (II) that support an event or the
45 participation by a municipal official or municipal employee at an
46 event, and (ii) that facilitate municipal action or functions. As used in
47 this subparagraph, "municipal property" means property owned by a
48 municipality or property leased to a municipality;

49 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than
50 one hundred dollars;

51 (G) A rebate, discount or promotional item available to the general
52 public;

53 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to
54 municipal action or functions;

55 (I) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars in the
56 aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed on an
57 occasion or occasions at which the person paying, directly or
58 indirectly, for the food or beverage, or his representative, is in
59 attendance;

60 (J) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both,
61 provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event,
62 provided any such gift provided by an individual who is not a
63 member of the family of the recipient does not exceed five hundred
64 dollars in value;

65 (K) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and
66 beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel
67 expenses, at which a municipal official or municipal employee
68 participates in his or her official capacity, provided such admission is
69 provided by the primary sponsoring entity;

70 (L) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a municipal
71 official, (ii) a municipal employee, or (iii) a spouse of a municipal

72 official or municipal employee, to such official, employee or spouse,
73 provided such benefits are customarily and ordinarily provided to
74 others in similar circumstances;

75 (M) Anything having a value of not more than ten dollars, provided
76 the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a recipient
77 under this subdivision in any calendar year does not exceed fifty
78 dollars;

79 (N) Training that is provided by a vendor for a product purchased
80 by a municipality that is offered to all customers of such vendor; or

81 (O) Expenses of a municipal official, paid by the party committee of
82 which party such official is a member, for the purpose of
83 accomplishing the lawful purposes of the committee. As used in this
84 subdivision, "party committee" has the same meaning as provided in
85 subdivision (2) of section 9-601 of the general statutes, and "lawful
86 purposes of the committee" has the same meaning as provided in
87 subsection (g) of section 9-607 of the general statutes.

88 (6) "Immediate family" means any spouse, children or dependent
89 relatives who reside in the individual's household.

90 (7) "Individual" means a natural person.

91 (8) "Member of a municipal advisory board" means any individual
92 (A) appointed by a municipal official as an advisor or consultant or
93 member of a committee, commission or council established to advise,
94 recommend or consult with a municipal official or office or committee
95 thereof, (B) who receives no municipal funds other than per diem
96 payments or reimbursement for his or her actual and necessary
97 expenses incurred in the performance of his or her official duties, and
98 (C) who has no authority to expend any municipal funds or to exercise
99 the power of the municipality.

100 (9) "Municipal employee" means any employee of a municipality or

101 a political subdivision of a municipality, whether in the classified or
102 unclassified service, permanent or temporary, and whether full or
103 part-time.

104 (10) "Municipal official" means any elected officer or officer-elect of
105 a municipality, including a district officer elected pursuant to section
106 7-327 of the general statutes, and any person appointed to any office of
107 the municipality or a political subdivision of a municipality, but does
108 not include a member of a municipal advisory board.

109 (11) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated
110 town and city, and consolidated town and borough and includes any
111 special district contained therein.

112 (12) "Person" means an individual, sole proprietorship, trust,
113 corporation, limited liability company, union, association, firm,
114 partnership, committee, club or other organization or group of
115 persons.

116 (13) "Political contribution" has the same meaning as provided in
117 section 9-601a of the general statutes, except that for purposes of this
118 section and sections 2 to 17, inclusive, of this act, the provisions of
119 subsection (b) of said section shall not apply.

120 (14) "Necessary expenses" means a municipal official's or municipal
121 employee's expenses for an article, appearance or speech or for
122 participation at an event, in his or her official capacity, which shall be
123 limited to necessary travel expenses, lodging for the nights before, of
124 and after the appearance, speech or event, meals and any related
125 conference or seminar registration fees.

126 (15) "Trust" means a trust in which any municipal official or
127 municipal employee or member of his immediate family has a present
128 or future interest that exceeds ten per cent of the value of the trust or
129 exceeds fifty thousand dollars, whichever is less, but does not include
130 blind trusts.

131 (16) "Legal defense fund" means a fund established for the payment
132 of legal expenses of a municipal official or municipal employee
133 incurred as a result of defending himself or herself in an
134 administrative, civil, criminal or constitutional proceeding concerning
135 matters related to the official's or employee's service or employment
136 with the municipality.

137 (17) "Special district" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-
138 324 of the general statutes.

139 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the provisions
140 of section 1 of this act and sections 3 to 17, inclusive, of this act, a
141 board, commission, council, committee or other agency that has been
142 established to investigate allegations of unethical conduct within a
143 municipality may decide and dispose of any matters that have been
144 submitted for its consideration and disposition prior to January 1,
145 2016.

146 Sec. 3. Section 1-81 of the general statutes is repealed and the
147 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

148 (a) The board and general counsel and staff of the Office of State
149 Ethics shall:

150 (1) Compile and maintain an index of all reports, advisory opinions,
151 informal staff letters, memoranda issued in accordance with subsection
152 (b) of section 1-82, subsection (b) of section 1-93 and subsection (b) of
153 section 4 of this act and statements filed by and with the Office of State
154 Ethics to facilitate public access to such reports and advisory opinions,
155 informal staff letters, memoranda statements as provided by this part,
156 part II of this chapter and sections 1 and 2 of this act and sections 4 to
157 17, inclusive, of this act;

158 (2) Preserve advisory opinions and informal staff letters,
159 permanently; preserve memoranda issued in accordance with
160 subsection (b) of section 1-82 and subsection (b) of section 5 of this act

161 and statements and reports filed by and with the board for a period of
162 five years from the date of receipt;

163 (3) Upon the concurring vote of a majority of the board present and
164 voting, issue advisory opinions with regard to the requirements of this
165 part, ~~[or] part II, III or IV of this chapter or sections 1 and 2 of this act~~
166 and sections 4 to 17, inclusive, of this act, upon the request of any
167 person subject to the provisions of this part, ~~part II, III or [part] IV of~~
168 this chapter or sections 1 and 2 of this act and sections 4 to 17,
169 inclusive, of this act, and publish such advisory opinions in the
170 Connecticut Law Journal. Advisory opinions rendered by the board,
171 until amended or revoked, shall be binding on the board and shall be
172 deemed to be final decisions of the board for purposes of appeal to the
173 superior court, in accordance with the provisions of section 4-175 or 4-
174 183. Any advisory opinion concerning the person who requested the
175 opinion and who acted in reliance thereon, in good faith, shall be
176 binding upon the board, and it shall be an absolute defense in any
177 criminal action brought under the provisions of this part, ~~[or] part II,~~
178 III or IV of this chapter or sections 1 and 2 of this act and sections 4 to
179 17, inclusive, of this act, that the accused acted in reliance upon such
180 advisory opinion;

181 (4) Respond to inquiries and provide advice regarding the code of
182 ethics either verbally or through informal letters;

183 (5) Provide yearly training to all state employees and municipal
184 employees and municipal officials regarding the code of ethics;

185 (6) Make legislative recommendations to the General Assembly and
186 report annually, not later than February fifteenth, to the Governor
187 summarizing the activities of the Office of State Ethics; and

188 (7) Meet not less than once per month with the office's executive
189 director and ethics enforcement officer.

190 (b) The Office of State Ethics may enter into such contractual

191 agreements as may be necessary for the discharge of its duties, within
192 the limits of its appropriated funds and in accordance with established
193 procedures.

194 (c) The Office of State Ethics shall employ an executive director,
195 general counsel and ethics enforcement officer, each of whom shall be
196 exempt from classified state service. The salary for the executive
197 director, general counsel and the ethics enforcement officer shall be
198 determined by the Commissioner of Administrative Services in
199 accordance with accepted personnel practices. No one person may
200 serve in more than one of the positions described in this subsection.
201 The Office of State Ethics may employ necessary staff within available
202 appropriations. Such necessary staff of the Office of State Ethics shall
203 be in classified state service.

204 (d) The executive director, described in subsection (c) of this section,
205 shall be appointed by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board for an open-
206 ended term. Such appointment shall not be made until all the initial
207 board members appointed to terms commencing on October 1, 2005,
208 are appointed by their respective appointing authorities, pursuant to
209 subsection (a) of section 1-80. The board shall annually evaluate the
210 performance of the executive director, in writing, and may remove the
211 executive director, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 67.

212 (e) The general counsel and ethics enforcement officer described in
213 subsection (c) of this section, and other staff of the Office of State Ethics
214 shall be appointed by the executive director of the Office of State
215 Ethics. The executive director shall annually evaluate the performance
216 of the general counsel, ethics enforcement officer and such other staff,
217 in writing, and may remove the general counsel or ethics enforcement
218 officer, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 67, or such other
219 staff, in accordance with any applicable collective bargaining
220 agreement.

221 (f) There shall be a legal division within the Office of State Ethics.

222 The legal division shall provide the board with legal advice on matters
223 before said board and shall represent the board in all matters in which
224 the board is a party, without the assistance of the Attorney General
225 unless the board requests such assistance. The legal division shall,
226 under the direction of the general counsel, provide information and
227 written and verbal opinions to persons subject to the code and to the
228 general public. The general counsel, described in subsection (c) of this
229 section, shall supervise such division. The investigation or instigation
230 of a complaint may not occur solely because of information received by
231 the legal division.

232 (g) There shall be an enforcement division within the Office of State
233 Ethics. The enforcement division shall be responsible for investigating
234 complaints brought to or by the board. The ethics enforcement officer,
235 described in subsection (c) of this section, shall supervise the
236 enforcement division. The enforcement division shall employ such
237 attorneys and investigators, as necessary, within available
238 appropriations, and may refer matters to the office of the Chief State's
239 Attorney, as appropriate.

240 (h) The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board shall adopt regulations in
241 accordance with chapter 54 to carry out the purposes of this part. Such
242 regulations shall not be deemed to govern the conduct of any judge
243 trial referee in the performance of such judge trial referee's duties
244 pursuant to this chapter.

245 (i) The general counsel shall, in consultation with the executive
246 director of the Office of State Ethics, oversee yearly training of all state
247 personnel in the code of ethics, provide training on the code of ethics
248 to other individuals or entities subject to the code and shall make
249 recommendations as to public education regarding ethics.

250 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) The Citizen's Ethics
251 Advisory Board shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54
252 of the general statutes, to carry out the purposes of sections 1 and 2 of

253 this act and sections 5 to 17, inclusive, of this act. Such regulations shall
254 not be deemed to govern the conduct of any judge trial referee in the
255 performance of such judge trial referee's duties pursuant to chapter 10
256 of the general statutes.

257 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) (1) Upon the complaint of
258 any person on a form prescribed by the board, signed under penalty of
259 false statement, or upon its own complaint, the ethics enforcement
260 officer of the Office of State Ethics shall investigate any alleged
261 violation of sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to
262 17, inclusive, of this act. Not later than five days after the receipt or
263 issuance of such complaint, the board shall provide notice of such
264 receipt or issuance and a copy of the complaint by registered or
265 certified mail to any respondent against whom such complaint is filed
266 and shall provide notice of the receipt of such complaint to the
267 complainant. When the ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State
268 Ethics undertakes an evaluation of a possible violation of sections 1, 2
269 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this act
270 prior to the filing of a complaint, the subject of the evaluation shall be
271 notified not later than five business days after an Office of State Ethics
272 staff member's first contact with a third party concerning the matter.

273 (2) In the conduct of its investigation of an alleged violation of
274 sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive,
275 of this act, the Office of State Ethics may hold hearings, administer
276 oaths, examine witnesses and receive oral and documentary evidence.
277 The Office of State Ethics may subpoena witnesses under procedural
278 rules adopted by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board as regulations in
279 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes to
280 compel attendance before the Office of State Ethics and to require the
281 production for examination by the ethics enforcement officer of the
282 Office of State Ethics of any books and papers which the Office of State
283 Ethics deems relevant in any matter under investigation or in question,
284 provided any such subpoena is issued either pursuant to a majority
285 vote of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board or pursuant to the

286 signature of the chairperson of such board. The vice-chairperson of
287 such board may sign any such subpoena if the chairperson of such
288 board is unavailable. In the exercise of such powers, the Office of State
289 Ethics may use the services of the state police, who shall provide the
290 same upon the office's request. The Office of State Ethics shall make a
291 record of all proceedings conducted pursuant to this subsection. The
292 ethics enforcement officer of the Office of State Ethics may bring any
293 alleged violation of sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this section and
294 sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this act before a judge trial referee
295 assigned by the Chief Court Administrator for such purpose for a
296 probable cause hearing. Such judge trial referee shall be compensated
297 in accordance with the provisions of section 52-434 of the general
298 statutes from such funds as may be available to the Office of State
299 Ethics. Any witness summoned before the Office of State Ethics or a
300 judge trial referee pursuant to this subsection shall receive the witness
301 fee paid to witnesses in the courts of this state.

302 (3) During any investigation conducted pursuant to this subsection
303 or any probable cause hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection,
304 the respondent shall have the right to appear and be heard and to offer
305 any information which may tend to clear the respondent of probable
306 cause to believe the respondent has violated any provision of sections
307 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this
308 act. The respondent shall also have the right to be represented by legal
309 counsel and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. Not later than
310 ten days prior to the commencement of any hearing conducted
311 pursuant to this subsection, the Office of State Ethics shall provide the
312 respondent with a list of its intended witnesses.

313 (4) Any finding of probable cause to believe the respondent is in
314 violation of any provisions of sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this section
315 and sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this act shall be made by a judge trial
316 referee not later than thirty days after the ethics enforcement officer
317 brings such alleged violation before such judge trial referee, except that
318 such thirty-day limitation period shall not apply if the judge trial

319 referee determines that good cause exists for extending such limitation
320 period.

321 (b) (1) If a judge trial referee determines that probable cause exists
322 for the violation of a provision of sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this
323 section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this act, the board shall
324 initiate hearings to determine whether there has been a violation of
325 sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive,
326 of this act. Any such hearing shall be initiated by the board not later
327 than thirty days after the finding of probable cause by a judge trial
328 referee and shall be concluded not later than ninety days after its
329 initiation, except that such thirty or ninety-day limitation period shall
330 not apply if the judge trial referee determines that good cause exists for
331 extending such limitation period. A judge trial referee, who has not
332 taken part in the probable cause determination on the matter, shall be
333 assigned by the Chief Court Administrator and shall be compensated
334 in accordance with section 52-434 of the general statutes out of funds
335 available to the Office of State Ethics and shall preside over such
336 hearing and rule on all issues concerning the application of the rules of
337 evidence, which shall be the same as in judicial proceedings. The judge
338 trial referee shall have no vote in any decision of the board. All
339 hearings of the board held pursuant to this subsection shall be open.
340 At such hearing the board shall have the same powers as the Office of
341 State Ethics under subsection (a) of this section and the respondent
342 shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel, the right to
343 compel attendance of witnesses and the production of books,
344 documents, records and papers and to examine and cross-examine
345 witnesses.

346 (2) Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of any
347 hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection, the Office of State
348 Ethics shall provide the respondent with a list of its intended
349 witnesses. The judge trial referee shall, while engaged in the discharge
350 of the duties as provided in this subsection, have the same authority as
351 is provided in section 51-35 of the general statutes over witnesses who

352 refuse to obey a subpoena or to testify with respect to any matter upon
353 which such witness may be lawfully interrogated, and may commit
354 any such witness for contempt for a period not longer than thirty days.
355 The Office of State Ethics shall make a record of all proceedings
356 pursuant to this subsection. During the course of any such hearing, no
357 ex-parte communication shall occur between the board, or any of its
358 members, and: (A) The judge trial referee, or (B) any staff member of
359 the Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics, concerning the
360 complaint or the respondent.

361 (3) The board shall find no person in violation of any provision of
362 sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive,
363 of this act, except upon the concurring vote of six of its members
364 present and voting. No member of the board shall vote on the question
365 of whether a violation of any provision of sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act,
366 this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this act has occurred
367 unless such member was physically present for the duration of any
368 hearing held pursuant to this subsection. Not later than fifteen days
369 after the public hearing conducted in accordance with this subsection,
370 the board shall publish its finding and a memorandum of the reasons
371 therefor. Such finding and memorandum shall be deemed to be the
372 final decision of the board on the matter for the purposes of chapter 54
373 of the general statutes. The respondent, if aggrieved by the finding and
374 memorandum, may appeal therefrom to the Superior Court in
375 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183 of the general statutes.

376 (c) If a judge trial referee finds, after a hearing pursuant to this
377 section, that there is no probable cause to believe that a municipal
378 official or municipal employee has violated a provision of sections 1, 2
379 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this act
380 or if the board determines that a municipal official or municipal
381 employee has not violated any such provision, or if a court of
382 competent jurisdiction overturns a finding by the board of a violation
383 by such a respondent, the state shall pay the reasonable legal expenses
384 of the respondent as determined by the Attorney General or by the

385 court if appropriate. If any complaint brought under the provisions of
386 sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive,
387 of this act is made with the knowledge that it is made without
388 foundation in fact, the respondent shall have a cause of action against
389 the complainant for double the amount of damage caused thereby and,
390 if the respondent prevails in such action, he or she may be awarded by
391 the court the costs of such action together with reasonable attorneys'
392 fees.

393 (d) No complaint may be made under this section later than five
394 years after the violation alleged in the complaint has been committed.

395 (e) No person shall take or threaten to take official action against an
396 individual for such individual's disclosure of information to the board
397 or the general counsel, ethics enforcement officer or staff of the Office
398 of State Ethics under the provisions of sections 1, 2 and 4 of this act,
399 this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this act. After receipt of
400 information from an individual under the provisions of sections 1, 2
401 and 4 of this act, this section and sections 6 to 17, inclusive, of this act,
402 the Office of State Ethics shall not disclose the identity of such
403 individual without such individual's consent unless the Office of State
404 Ethics determines that such disclosure is unavoidable during the
405 course of an investigation. No person shall be subject to civil liability
406 for any good faith disclosure that such person makes to the Office of
407 State Ethics.

408 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) Unless a judge trial
409 referee makes a finding of probable cause, a complaint alleging a
410 violation of sections 1, 2, 4 and 5 of this act, this section and sections 7
411 to 17, inclusive, of this act shall be confidential except upon the request
412 of the respondent. An evaluation of a possible violation of sections 1, 2,
413 4 and 5 of this act, this section and sections 7 to 17, inclusive, of this act
414 by the Office of State Ethics prior to the filing of a complaint shall be
415 confidential except upon the request of the subject of the evaluation. If
416 the evaluation is confidential, any information supplied to or received

417 from the Office of State Ethics shall not be disclosed to any third party
418 by a subject of the evaluation, a person contacted for the purpose of
419 obtaining information or by the ethics enforcement officer or staff of
420 the Office of State Ethics. No provision of this subsection shall prevent
421 the Office of State Ethics from reporting the possible commission of a
422 crime to the Chief State's Attorney or other prosecutorial authority.

423 (b) An investigation conducted prior to a probable cause finding
424 shall be confidential except upon the request of the respondent. If the
425 investigation is confidential, the allegations in the complaint and any
426 information supplied to or received from the Office of State Ethics shall
427 not be disclosed during the investigation to any third party by a
428 complainant, respondent, witness, designated party, or board or staff
429 member of the Office of State Ethics.

430 (c) Not later than three business days after the termination of the
431 investigation, the Office of State Ethics shall inform the complainant
432 and the respondent of its finding and provide them a summary of its
433 reasons for making such finding. The Office of State Ethics shall
434 publish its finding upon the respondent's request and may also
435 publish a summary of its reasons for making such finding.

436 (d) If a judge trial referee makes a finding of no probable cause, the
437 complaint and the record of the Office of State Ethics' investigation
438 shall remain confidential, except upon the request of the respondent
439 and except that some or all of the record may be used in subsequent
440 proceedings. No complainant, respondent, witness, designated party,
441 or board or staff member of the Office of State Ethics shall disclose to
442 any third party any information learned from the investigation,
443 including knowledge of the existence of a complaint, which the
444 disclosing party would not otherwise have known. If such a disclosure
445 is made, the judge trial referee may, after consultation with the
446 respondent if the respondent is not the source of the disclosure,
447 publish the judge trial referee's finding and a summary of the judge
448 trial referee's reasons therefor.

449 (e) The judge trial referee shall make public a finding of probable
450 cause not later than five business days after any such finding. At such
451 time the entire record of the investigation shall become public, except
452 that the Office of State Ethics may postpone examination or release of
453 such public records for a period not to exceed fourteen days for the
454 purpose of reaching a stipulation agreement pursuant to subsection (c)
455 of section 4-177 of the general statutes. Any such stipulation agreement
456 or settlement shall be approved by a majority of those members
457 present and voting.

458 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) No municipal official or
459 municipal employee shall, while serving as such, have any financial
460 interest in, or engage in, any business, employment, transaction or
461 professional activity which is in substantial conflict with the proper
462 discharge of his or her duties or employment in the public interest and
463 of his or her responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, as
464 defined in section 10 of this act.

465 (b) No municipal official or municipal employee shall accept other
466 employment which will either impair such official's or employee's
467 independence of judgment as to his or her official duties or
468 employment or require him or her, or induce him or her, to disclose
469 confidential information acquired by such official or employee in the
470 course of and by reason of his or her official duties.

471 (c) No municipal official or municipal employee shall wilfully and
472 knowingly disclose, for financial gain, to any other person confidential
473 information acquired by him or her in the course of and by reason of
474 such official's or employee's official duties or employment and no
475 municipal official or municipal employee shall use his or her public
476 office or position or any confidential information received through
477 holding such public office or position to obtain financial gain for
478 himself or herself, his or her spouse, child, child's spouse, parent,
479 brother or sister, his or her employer other than the municipality or a
480 business with which he or she is associated.

481 (d) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no
482 municipal official or municipal employee or employee of such
483 municipal official or municipal employee shall agree to accept any
484 employment, fee or other thing of value, or portion thereof, for
485 appearing, agreeing to appear, or taking any other action on behalf of
486 another person before any municipal board, commission, council or
487 department of the municipality in which such municipal official or
488 municipal employee holds a public office or position or the subject
489 matter over which municipal official or municipal employee has
490 authority or control; except this subsection shall not prohibit any such
491 person from requesting information on behalf of another before any
492 such municipal board, commission, council or department if no fee or
493 reward is given or promised in consequence thereof.

494 (2) A municipal official or municipal employee may be or become a
495 member or employee of a firm, partnership, association or professional
496 corporation which represents clients for compensation before any
497 municipal board, commission, council or department of the
498 municipality in which such member or employee holds public office,
499 provided the member or employee takes no part in any matter
500 involving any such municipal board, commission, council or
501 department and does not receive compensation from any such matter.
502 Receipt of a previously established salary, not based on the current or
503 anticipated business of the firm, partnership, association or
504 professional corporation involving the applicable municipal board,
505 commission, council or department, shall be permitted. Nothing in this
506 subsection shall prohibit or restrict a municipal official or municipal
507 employee from appearing before any municipal board, commission,
508 council or department in his or her own individual interest or the
509 individual interest of an immediate family member, or being a party in
510 any action, proceeding or litigation brought by or against the
511 municipal official or municipal employee to which the municipality is
512 a party.

513 (e) No person shall offer or give to a municipal official or municipal

514 employee or candidate for municipal office or his or her spouse, his or
515 her parent, brother, sister or child or spouse of such child or a business
516 with which such official or employee is associated, anything of value,
517 including, but not limited to, a gift, loan, political contribution, reward
518 or promise of future employment based on any understanding that the
519 vote, official action or judgment of the municipal official, municipal
520 employee or candidate for municipal office would be or had been
521 influenced thereby.

522 (f) No municipal official or municipal employee or candidate for
523 municipal office shall solicit or accept anything of value, including, but
524 not limited to, a gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise of
525 future employment based on any understanding that the vote, official
526 action or judgment of the municipal official or municipal employee or
527 candidate for municipal office would be or had been influenced
528 thereby.

529 (g) Nothing in subsection (e) or (f) of this section shall be construed
530 (1) to apply to any promise made in violation of subdivision (6) of
531 section 9-622 of the general statutes, or (2) to permit any activity
532 otherwise prohibited in section 53a-147 or 53a-148 of the general
533 statutes.

534 (h) No municipal official or municipal employee or member of the
535 official or employee's immediate family or a business with which he or
536 she is associated shall enter into any contract with the municipality in
537 which such municipal official or municipal employee holds a public
538 office or position, valued at five hundred dollars or more, other than a
539 contract (1) of employment as a municipal employee, or (2) pursuant to
540 a court appointment, unless the contract has been awarded through an
541 open and public process, including prior public offer and subsequent
542 public disclosure of all proposals considered and the contract
543 awarded. In no event shall an executive head of a municipal
544 department, or the executive head's immediate family or a business
545 with which he or she is associated enter into any contract with such

546 department. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as applying
547 to any municipal official who is appointed as a member of a municipal
548 board, commission, council or department and who receives no
549 compensation other than per diem payments or reimbursement for
550 actual or necessary expenses, or both, incurred in the performance of
551 the municipal official's duties unless such municipal official has
552 authority or control over the subject matter of the contract. Any
553 contract made in violation of this subsection shall be voidable by a
554 court of competent jurisdiction if the suit is commenced not later than
555 one hundred eighty days after the making of the contract.

556 (i) No municipal official or municipal employee shall accept a fee or
557 honorarium for an article, appearance or speech or for participation at
558 an event in the municipal official's or municipal employee's official
559 capacity, provided a municipal official or municipal employee may
560 receive payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses for any
561 such activity in his or her official capacity. If a municipal official or
562 municipal employee receives such a payment or reimbursement for
563 lodging or out-of-state travel, or both, the municipal official or
564 municipal employee shall, not later than thirty days thereafter, file a
565 report of the payment or reimbursement with the Office of State Ethics,
566 unless the payment or reimbursement is provided by the federal
567 government or state government. If a municipal official or municipal
568 employee does not file such report within such period, either
569 intentionally or due to gross negligence on the municipal official's or
570 municipal employee's part, the municipal official or municipal
571 employee shall return the payment or reimbursement. If any failure to
572 file such report is not intentional or due to gross negligence on the part
573 of the municipal official or municipal employee, the municipal official
574 or municipal employee shall not be subject to any penalty under this
575 chapter. When a municipal official or municipal employee attends an
576 event in this state in the municipal official's or municipal employee's
577 official capacity and as a principal speaker at such event and receives
578 admission to or food or beverage at such event from the sponsor of the

579 event, such admission or food or beverage shall not be considered a
580 gift and no report shall be required from such municipal official or
581 municipal employee or from the sponsor of the event.

582 (j) No municipal official or municipal employee shall knowingly
583 accept, directly or indirectly, any gift from any person the municipal
584 official or municipal employee knows or has reason to know: (1) Is
585 doing business with or seeking to do business with the municipal
586 board, commission, council or department in which the municipal
587 official or municipal employee holds a public office or position; or (2)
588 is engaged in activities which are directly regulated by such board,
589 commission, council or department. No person shall knowingly give,
590 directly or indirectly, any gift or gifts in violation of this provision.
591 Any person prohibited from making a gift under this subsection shall
592 report to the Office of State Ethics any solicitation of a gift from such
593 person by a municipal employee or municipal official.

594 (k) (1) No municipal official or municipal employee or member of
595 the immediate family of a municipal official or municipal employee
596 shall knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any gift costing one
597 hundred dollars or more from a municipal official or municipal
598 employee who is under the supervision of such municipal official or
599 municipal employee.

600 (2) No municipal official or municipal employee or member of the
601 immediate family of a municipal official or municipal employee shall
602 knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any gift costing one hundred
603 dollars or more from a municipal official or municipal employee who
604 is a supervisor of such municipal official or municipal employee.

605 (3) No municipal official or municipal employee shall knowingly
606 give, directly or indirectly, any gift in violation of subdivision (1) or (2)
607 of this subsection.

608 (l) No municipal official or municipal employee shall intentionally
609 counsel, authorize or otherwise sanction action that violates any

610 provision of sections 1, 2 and 6 of this act, this section and sections 8 to
611 17, inclusive, of this act.

612 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) No former municipal
613 official or municipal employee shall disclose or use confidential
614 information acquired in the course of and by reason of his or her
615 official duties for financial gain for such official or such employee or
616 another person.

617 (b) No former municipal official or municipal employee shall
618 represent anyone other than the municipality, concerning any
619 particular matter (1) in which he or she participated personally and
620 substantially while in municipal service or employment, and (2) in
621 which the municipality has a substantial interest.

622 (c) No former municipal official or municipal employee shall, for
623 one year after leaving municipal service or employment, represent
624 anyone, other than the municipality, for compensation before the
625 municipal board, commission, council or department in which such
626 official or employee served at the time of his or her termination of
627 service or employment, concerning any matter in which the
628 municipality has a substantial interest.

629 (d) No former municipal official or municipal employee who
630 participated substantially in the negotiation or award of a municipal
631 contract valued at an amount of twenty-five thousand dollars or more,
632 or who supervised the negotiation or award of such a contract, shall
633 seek or accept employment with a party to the contract other than the
634 municipality for a period of one year after his or her resignation from
635 municipal office or position if his or her resignation occurs less than
636 one year after the contract is signed. No party to such a contract other
637 than the municipality shall employ any such former municipal official
638 or municipal employee in violation of this subsection.

639 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) Nothing in the provisions of
640 this section, sections 1, 2 and 4 to 8, inclusive, and sections 10 to 17,

641 inclusive, of this act shall prohibit the donation of goods or services, as
642 described in subparagraph (E) of subdivision (5) of section 1 of this act,
643 to a municipality, the donation of the use of facilities to facilitate
644 municipal action or functions or the donation of real property to a
645 municipality.

646 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) A municipal official or
647 municipal employee has an interest which is in substantial conflict
648 with the proper discharge of his duties or employment in the public
649 interest and of such official's or employee's responsibilities as
650 prescribed in the laws of this state, if such official or employee has
651 reason to believe or expect that he or she, his or her spouse, a
652 dependent child, his or her employer other than the municipality or a
653 business with which he or she is associated will derive a direct
654 monetary gain or suffer a direct monetary loss, as the case may be, by
655 reason of his or her official activity. A municipal official or municipal
656 employee does not have an interest which is in substantial conflict
657 with the proper discharge of his or her duties in the public interest and
658 of his or her responsibilities as prescribed by the laws of this state, if
659 any benefit or detriment accrues to such official or employee, his or her
660 spouse, a dependent child, his or her employer other than the
661 municipality or a business with which such official or employee, his or
662 her spouse or such dependent child is associated as a member of a
663 profession, occupation or group to no greater extent than any other
664 member of such profession, occupation or group. A municipal official
665 or municipal employee who has a substantial conflict may not take
666 official action on the matter.

667 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) Any municipal official or
668 municipal employee who, in the discharge of such official's or
669 employee's official duties, would be required to take an action that
670 would affect a financial interest of such official or employee, such
671 official's or employee's spouse, parent, brother, sister, child or the
672 spouse of a child, employer other than the municipality or a business
673 with which such official or employee is associated, other than an

674 interest of a de minimis nature, an interest that is not distinct from that
675 of a substantial segment of the general public or an interest in
676 substantial conflict with the performance of official duties as defined in
677 section 10 of this act has a potential conflict of interest. Under such
678 circumstances, such official or employee shall, if such official or
679 employee is a member of a municipal regulatory board, council or
680 commission, either excuse himself or herself from the matter or
681 prepare a written statement signed under penalty of false statement
682 describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential
683 conflict and explaining why, despite the potential conflict, such official
684 or employee is able to vote and otherwise participate fairly, objectively
685 and in the public interest. Such municipal official or municipal
686 employee shall deliver a copy of the statement to the Office of State
687 Ethics and enter a copy of the statement in the journal or minutes of
688 the board, council or commission. If such official or employee is not a
689 member of a municipal regulatory board, council or commission, such
690 official or employee shall, in the case of either a substantial or potential
691 conflict, prepare a written statement signed under penalty of false
692 statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the
693 conflict and deliver a copy of the statement to such official's or
694 employee's immediate superior, if any, who shall assign the matter to
695 another employee, or, if such official or employee has no immediate
696 superior, such official or employee shall take such steps as the Office of
697 State Ethics shall prescribe or advise.

698 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) Any municipal official
699 or municipal employee who establishes a legal defense fund, or for
700 whom a legal defense fund has been established, shall file a report on
701 such fund with the Office of State Ethics not later than the tenth day of
702 January, April, July and October. Each such report shall include the
703 following information for the preceding calendar quarter: (1) The
704 names of the directors and officers of the fund, (2) the name of the
705 depository institution for the fund, (3) an itemized accounting of each
706 contribution to the fund, including the full name and complete address

707 of each contributor and the amount of the contribution, and (4) an
708 itemized accounting of each expenditure, including the full name and
709 complete address of each payee and the amount and purpose of the
710 expenditure. The municipal official or municipal employee shall sign
711 each such report under penalty of false statement.

712 (b) (1) In addition to the prohibition on gifts under subsection (j) of
713 section 7 of this act, no municipal official or municipal employee shall
714 accept, directly or indirectly, any contribution to a legal defense fund
715 established by or for the municipal official or municipal employee
716 from (A) a member of the immediate family of any person who is
717 prohibited from giving a gift under subsection (j) of section 7 of this
718 act, or (B) a person who is appointed by such municipal official or
719 municipal employee to serve on a paid, full-time basis. No person
720 described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision shall make a
721 contribution to such a legal defense fund, and no such person or any
722 person prohibited from making a gift under subsection (j) of section 7
723 of this act shall solicit a contribution for such a legal defense fund.

724 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection: (A) A
725 municipal official or municipal employee may accept a contribution or
726 contributions to a legal defense fund established by or for the
727 municipal official or municipal employee from any other person,
728 provided the total amount of such contributions from any such person
729 in any calendar year shall not exceed one thousand dollars, and (B) no
730 such person shall make a contribution or contributions to any such
731 legal defense fund exceeding one thousand dollars in any calendar
732 year.

733 (3) A municipal official or municipal employee may accept a
734 contribution or contributions, in any amount, to a legal defense fund
735 established by or for the municipal official or municipal employee
736 from a relative of the municipal official or municipal employee or a
737 person whose relationship with the municipal official or municipal
738 employee is not dependent on the official's or employee's status as a

739 municipal official or municipal employee. The factors that the board
740 shall consider in determining whether a person's relationship is so
741 dependent shall include, but not be limited to, whether the person may
742 be able to benefit from the exercise of official authority of the
743 municipal official or municipal employee and whether the person
744 made gifts to the municipal official or municipal employee before the
745 official or employee began serving in such office or position.

746 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) No person hired by a
747 municipality as a consultant or independent contractor shall:

748 (1) Use the authority provided to the person under the contract, or
749 any confidential information acquired in the performance of the
750 contract, to obtain financial gain for the person, an employee of the
751 person or a member of the immediate family of any such person or
752 employee;

753 (2) Accept another municipal contract which would impair the
754 independent judgment of the person in the performance of the existing
755 contract; or

756 (3) Accept anything of value based on an understanding that the
757 actions of the person on behalf of the municipality would be
758 influenced.

759 (b) No person shall give anything of value to a person hired by a
760 municipality as a consultant or independent contractor based on an
761 understanding that the actions of the consultant or independent
762 contractor on behalf of the municipality would be influenced.

763 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) Any person aggrieved by
764 any final decision of the board, made pursuant to sections 1, 2 and 4 to
765 13, inclusive, and sections 15 to 17, inclusive, of this act may appeal
766 such decision in accordance with the provisions of section 4-175 or
767 section 4-183 of the general statutes.

768 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) The board, upon a
769 finding made pursuant to section 5 of this act that there has been a
770 violation of any provision of this section, sections 1, 2 and 4 to 14,
771 inclusive, and sections 16 and 17, inclusive, of this act shall have the
772 authority to order the violator to do any or all of the following: (1)
773 Cease and desist the violation of this section, sections 1, 2 and 4 to 14,
774 inclusive, and sections 16 and 17, inclusive, of this act; (2) file any
775 report, statement or other information as required by this section,
776 sections 1, 2 and 4 to 14, inclusive, and sections 16 and 17, inclusive, of
777 this act; and (3) pay a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand
778 dollars for each violation of this section, sections 1, 2 and 4 to 14,
779 inclusive, and sections 16 and 17, inclusive, of this act.

780 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
781 the board may, after a hearing conducted in accordance with sections
782 4-176e to 4-184, inclusive, of the general statutes, upon the concurring
783 vote of six of its members, present and voting impose a civil penalty
784 not to exceed ten dollars per day upon any individual who fails to file
785 any statement or other information as required by this section, sections
786 1, 2 and 4 to 14, inclusive, and sections 16 and 17, inclusive, of this act.
787 Each distinct violation of this subsection shall be a separate offense and
788 in case of a continued violation, each day thereof shall be deemed a
789 separate offense. In no event shall the aggregate penalty imposed for
790 such failure to file exceed ten thousand dollars.

791 (c) The board may also report its finding to the Chief State's
792 Attorney for any action deemed necessary. The board, upon a finding
793 made pursuant to section 5 of this act that a member or member-elect
794 of the legislative body of a municipality has violated any provision of
795 this section, sections 1, 2 and 4 to 14, inclusive, and sections 16 and 17,
796 inclusive, of this act shall notify such legislative body, in writing, of
797 such finding and the basis for such finding.

798 (d) Any person who knowingly acts in such person's financial
799 interest in violation of section 7, 8, 10, 11 or 12 of this act or any person

800 who knowingly receives a financial advantage resulting from a
801 violation of any of said sections shall be liable for damages in the
802 amount of such advantage. If the board determines that any person
803 may be so liable, it shall immediately inform the Attorney General of
804 such possibility.

805 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) Any person who
806 intentionally violates any provision of this section, sections 1, 2 and 4
807 to 15, inclusive, and section 17 of this act shall (1) for a first violation,
808 be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, except that, if such person derives
809 a financial benefit of one thousand dollars or more as a result of such
810 violation, such person shall be guilty of a class D felony, and (2) for a
811 second or subsequent violation, be guilty of a class D felony, provided
812 no person may be found guilty of a violation of subsection (e) or (f) of
813 section 7 of this act and bribery or bribe receiving under section 53a-
814 147 or 53a-148 of the general statutes upon the same incident, but such
815 person may be charged and prosecuted for all or any of such offenses
816 upon the same information.

817 (b) The penalties prescribed in this section, sections 1, 2 and 4 to 15,
818 inclusive, and section 17 of this act shall not limit the power of the
819 legislative body of a municipality to discipline its own members, and
820 shall not limit the power of municipal boards, commissions, councils
821 or departments to discipline their officials or employees.

822 (c) The Attorney General may bring a civil action against any person
823 who knowingly acts in the person's financial interest in, or knowingly
824 receives a financial advantage resulting from, a violation of section 7,
825 8, 10, 11 or 12 of this act. In any such action, the Attorney General may,
826 in the discretion of the court, recover any financial benefit that accrued
827 to the person as a result of such violation and additional damages in an
828 amount not exceeding twice the amount of the actual damages.

829 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2016*) (a) (1) A municipality may
830 require, upon consent of the legislative body of the municipality or, in

831 the case of a municipality in which the legislative body is a town
832 meeting, the board of selectmen, the filing of a statement of financial
833 interests with the Office of State Ethics, as provided in subdivision (2)
834 of this subsection.

835 (2) All elected officers of a municipality, appointed members of the
836 legislative body of a municipality, members of a municipal land use
837 agency or commission, members and employees of any municipal
838 board, commission, council or department who exercise (A) significant
839 policymaking, regulatory or contractual authority, (B) significant
840 decision-making or supervisory responsibility for the review or award
841 of municipal contracts, or (C) significant decision-making or
842 supervisory responsibility over a staff that monitors municipal
843 contracts, shall file, under penalty of false statement, a statement of
844 financial interests for the preceding calendar year with the Office of
845 State Ethics on or before the May first next in any year in which they
846 hold such an office or position. If, in any year, May first falls on a
847 weekend or legal holiday, such statement shall be filed not later than
848 the next business day. Any such individual who leaves his or her office
849 or position shall file a statement of financial interests covering that
850 portion of the year during which such individual held his or her office
851 or position. The Office of State Ethics shall notify such individuals of
852 the requirements of this subsection not later than thirty days after their
853 departure from such office or position. Such individuals shall file such
854 statement not later than sixty days after receipt of the notification.

855 (b) The statement of financial interests shall include the following
856 information for the preceding calendar year in regard to the individual
857 required to file the statement and the individual's spouse and
858 dependent children residing in the individual's household: (1) The
859 names of all businesses with which associated; (2) all sources of
860 income, including the name of each employer, with a description of
861 each source, in excess of one thousand dollars, without specifying
862 amounts of income; (3) the name of securities in excess of five
863 thousand dollars at fair market value owned by such individual,

864 spouse or dependent children or held in the name of a corporation,
865 partnership or trust for the benefit of such individual, spouse or
866 dependent children; (4) the existence of any known blind trust and the
867 names of the trustees; (5) all real property and its location, whether
868 owned by such individual, spouse or dependent children or held in the
869 name of a corporation, partnership or trust for the benefit of such
870 individual, spouse or dependent children; (6) the names and addresses
871 of creditors to whom the individual, the individual's spouse or
872 dependent children, individually, owed debts of more than ten
873 thousand dollars; and (7) any leases or contracts with the municipality
874 held or entered into by the individual or a business with which he or
875 she was associated.

876 (c) The statement of financial interests filed pursuant to this section
877 shall be a matter of public information, except the list of names, filed in
878 accordance with subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of this section shall
879 be sealed and confidential and for the use of the Office of State Ethics
880 only after a complaint has been filed under section 5 of this act and
881 such complaint has been determined by a vote of the board to be of
882 sufficient merit and gravity to justify the unsealing of such list or lists
883 and not open to public inspection unless the respondent requests
884 otherwise. If the board reports its findings to the Chief State's Attorney
885 in accordance with subsection (c) of section 15 of this act, the board
886 shall turn over to the Chief State's Attorney such relevant information
887 contained in the statement as may be germane to the specific violation
888 or violations or a prosecutorial official may subpoena such statement
889 in a criminal action. Unless otherwise a matter of public record, the
890 Office of State Ethics shall not disclose to the public any such subpoena
891 which would be exempt from disclosure by the issuing agency.

892 (d) Any individual who is unable to provide information required
893 under the provisions of subsection (b) of this section by reason of
894 impossibility may petition the board for a waiver of the requirements.

895 Sec. 18. Section 1-92 of the general statutes is repealed and the

896 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2016*):

897 [(a)] The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board shall adopt regulations, in
898 accordance with chapter 54, to carry out the purposes of this part. Such
899 regulations shall not be deemed to govern the conduct of any judge
900 trial referee in the performance of such judge trial referee's duties
901 pursuant to this chapter. Not later than January 1, 1992, the board shall
902 adopt regulations which further clarify the meaning of the terms
903 "directly and personally received" and "major life event", as used in
904 subdivision (5) of section 1-79 and subdivision (7) of section 1-91.

905 [(b) The general counsel and staff of the Office of State Ethics shall
906 compile and maintain an index of all reports and statements filed with
907 the Office of State Ethics under the provisions of this part and advisory
908 opinions and informal staff letters issued by the board with regard to
909 the requirements of this part, to facilitate public access to such reports,
910 statements, letters and advisory opinions promptly upon the filing or
911 issuance thereof.

912 (c) The general counsel and staff of the Office of State Ethics shall
913 prepare quarterly and annual summaries of statements and reports
914 filed with the Office of State Ethics and advisory opinions and
915 informal staff letters issued by the Office of State Ethics.

916 (d) The general counsel and staff of the Office of State Ethics shall
917 preserve advisory opinions and informal staff letters permanently and
918 shall preserve memoranda, statements and reports filed by and with
919 the Office of State Ethics for a period of five years from the date of
920 receipt.

921 (e) Upon the concurring vote of a majority of its members present
922 and voting, the board shall issue advisory opinions with regard to the
923 requirements of this part or part III of this chapter, upon the request of
924 any person, subject to the provisions of this part or part III of this
925 chapter, and publish such advisory opinions in the Connecticut Law
926 Journal. Advisory opinions rendered by the board, until amended or

927 revoked, shall be binding on the board and shall be deemed to be final
928 decisions of the board for purposes of appeal to the Superior Court, in
929 accordance with the provisions of section 4-175 or 4-183. Any advisory
930 opinion concerning any person subject to the provisions of this part or
931 part III of this chapter who requested the opinion and who acted in
932 reliance thereon, in good faith, shall be binding upon the board, and it
933 shall be an absolute defense in any criminal action brought under the
934 provisions of this part that the accused acted in reliance upon such
935 advisory opinion.

936 (f) The Office of State Ethics shall report annually, prior to February
937 fifteenth, to the Governor summarizing the activities of the Office of
938 State Ethics.

939 (g) The Office of State Ethics shall employ necessary staff within
940 available appropriations.]

941 Sec. 19. Subsection (d) of section 1-80 of the general statutes is
942 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
943 *January 1, 2016*):

944 (d) The board shall elect a chairperson who shall, except as
945 provided in subsection (b) of section 1-82 and subsection (b) of section
946 1-93, preside at meetings of the board and a vice-chairperson to
947 preside in the absence of the chairperson. Six members of the board
948 shall constitute a quorum. Except as provided in subdivision (3) of
949 subsection (a) of section 1-81, as amended by this act, subsections (a)
950 and (b) of section 1-82, subsection (b) of section 1-88, [subsection (e) of
951 section 1-92,] subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-93 and subsection (b)
952 of section 1-99, a majority vote of the members shall be required for
953 action of the board. The chairperson or any three members may call a
954 meeting.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	1-81
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	1-92
Sec. 19	<i>January 1, 2016</i>	1-80(d)

Statement of Purpose:

To create a code of ethics for municipal employees and municipal officials.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]